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THE TRIUMPHS OF FOREIGN MISSIONS.

BY REV. R. P. MACKAY.

Many men and women and millions of money are sent to the foreign mission field. What is there to show for this expenditure? What has been accomplished up to date? The following is but a partial answer, yet sufficient to cause thankfulness and inspire confidence and hope:—

I. DIRECT RESULTS. The following figures are approximations:—

1. *South America*, called the "Neglected Continent," has a population of 34,000,000, and of these 30,000,000 have never seen a Bible, although called a Christian country. It is under Roman Catholic control, and illustrates what the Roman Catholic Church does where she has undisputed sway. There are now 18 Protestant missionary societies operating there, about 350 missionaries, male and female, and about 30,000 communicants.

2. *Mexico.* This is another priest-ridden country, having a population of about 12,000,000. Twenty-five years ago Protestant missions entered, and there are now 14 societies at work, with about 200 missionaries and 18,000 communicants. There are 600 native workers and many thousands of children under instruction.

3. *Africa.* This is one of the great mission fields of the future. A population variously estimated at from 160,000,000 to 300,000,000, with nearly 600 different languages and dialects. European powers are struggling over "spheres of influence," but the light is penetrating the darkness. Already 45 societies are at work, the Bible has been translated, in whole or in part, into 70 languages, and there are over 1,200 missionaries. In Uganda alone, with 10,000,000 of a population, where twenty years ago there was no missionary, there are now 500 churches, 600 teachers and about 60,000 under instruction. There

are 100 native labourers supported by native contributions. In five months 10,000 copies of the Gospels were sold, such is their enthusiasm. What hath God wrought!

4. *The South Sea Islands.* There are 38 groups in all. About 2,000 islands in these groups are inhabited, having a population of 10,000,000. Already 14 of these groups are practically evangelized, and other groups partially so. There are 1,400 churches, with over 1,200 native ordained pastors, besides nearly 10,000 other native helpers engaged in the services. Captain Cook said of these islanders:—"There is a scale of sensuality to which these people have descended wholly unknown to every other people, which no imagination can possibly conceive, and it is not likely they will ever be evangelized." It was of these same islanders that Darwin said, many years after:—"The lesson of the missionary is the enchanter's wand." The victories of the Gospel in the South Seas are the brightest chapters in modern history. "The islands shall wait for Him."

5. *India.* The population of India is 288,000,000, of whom about 6 per cent. of the men and 1 per cent. of the women can read. They are so poor that two cents a day is the average income. They claim that there are 333,000,000 gods. The work amongst the Hindus is so difficult that Henry Martyn said, "If ever I see a Hindu converted to Jesus Christ I shall see something more nearly approaching the resurrection of a dead body than anything I have seen." Yet there are about 200,000 communicants in India to-day and nearly 600,000 Protestant adherents. There are 4,000,000 in educational institutions receiving a Western education, which is undermining heathenism and preparing the way for Christ.

6. *China.* This vast country has 400,000,000 souls, one-fourth of the whole population of the world. In 1840 there were only five seaport towns at which the missionary could labour. In 1860 the missionary had access to ten points along the coast. That is only 37 years ago. To-day the whole of China is open. Every province has been invaded. There are 80,000 communicants, another 80,000 who are believers, but for some cause have not made public profession, and probably 120,000 more who are intellectually convinced that Christianity is true and have lost all faith in idolatry. Now that China's millions are about to be cast into a new mould, how important that the clay be liberally mixed with the leaven of the Gospel!

7. *Japan.* The first missionary went to Japan in 1859. The first convert was won in 1864. The first church was organized in 1872, with only 11 members. To-day there are 40,000 converts in Japan and a Christian community of 150,000. The whole Empire of 40,000,000

souls lies open for evangelization. These are but some of the direct results. Surely God's hand is here!

II. Indirect Results. These cannot be tabulated, but are none the less important. Look at the changes in India alone, where the following practices, so common at one time, are prohibited by law:—

1. Infanticide—so prevalent that it is said five parents out of every six were guilty of it.
2. Paricide. The murder of parents no longer able to care for themselves.
3. Suicides, in the name of religion, by leaping over precipices or into wells, or by throwing themselves under the idol-car.
4. Voluntary torture, in the name of religion, such as piercing their thighs with spears, cutting out their own tongues, swinging on hooks fastened in the flesh.
5. Involuntary torture, in the name of justice, such as cutting off noses or ears or hands, or plucking the eyes out, as punishments for crime.
6. Slavery, both predatory and domestic.

These and many other such changes are the results of Christian influence in India, ameliorating the condition of people and elevating them to higher conceptions of life.

III. The Rapidity of God's Movements. Sometimes missionaries have had their faith tried by weary waiting, but often the results are so rapid as to make it easy to believe that, according to promise, a nation will be born in a day. Amongst the Telugus in India 10,000 were baptized in six months. In the life-time of one man the Fiji Islands were evangelized. The inhabitants of Tahiti as one man arose from their idolatry and accepted the Gospel of Christ. The movements in the Sandwich Islands and in Eromanga and amongst the Karens were scarcely less remarkable. John Williams began work in Raratonga in 1823 and eleven years after, in 1834, all were professed Christians. There had been when he landed 10,000 idols; when he left idols had disappeared, 6,000 worshipped the true God and read His Word in their own written language, and family worship was conducted morning and evening in every house in the island. Surely "A nation in a day" is not impossible to Him who has already wrought such miracles of grace!

IV. The Quality of Work Done. This has sometimes been questioned. Men have said that the conversions were not genuine; that they only profess conversions because of the help they expect to receive. It is no longer possible honestly to make such statements.

Apply such tests as the following :—1. Public profession. 2. Efforts to propagate their religion. 3. Readiness to sacrifice, suffer and even die for their religion. 4. The conviction of all who know them that they are Christians. How many of our own Christian people would stand such tests ? Yet in mission fields all these have been applied to native Christians, and they have not been found wanting. They labour assiduously, they give generously out of their extreme poverty, they die heroically confessing Christ.

V. Progress in the Home Church. That is not less remarkable than the rapid progress abroad. Note the changes:—

1. When William Carey proposed sending a missionary to the heathen he was rebuked in the Baptist Association. The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland so far forgot the Master's commission as to pass a resolution condemning Carey's movement as a pernicious delusion. There is scarcely a church in Christendom now but would feel ashamed to pass such a resolution. All thoughtful men feel that the church exists for the evangelization of the world.

2. It used to be felt that every dollar sent abroad is a dollar lost at home. Some feel that way still. It is, however, becoming better understood that there is a witholding that tendeth to poverty, and a giving that tendeth to riches. In order to get blessing on our churches at home, we must obey the Lord's command and aim at the "uttermost parts of the earth."

3. The increase of mission literature. It is said that about one-seventh of all religious literature published is missionary. That fact is full of promise.

4. The growth of interest amongst the young people in our colleges and young people's societies. There are 1,000 colleges on this continent having about 75,000 students. In about 360 of these colleges there are circles studying and disseminating interest in foreign missions.

Surely all this is the Lord's doing. Jehovah is the God of missions. Jesus Christ is the Captain of the Host that is publishing salvation. All who labour with Him shall share in the glory of ultimate victory. Are you a co-labourer with Jesus Christ ?

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